

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 EUR-10 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01

NEAE-00 DRC-01 IO-03 OMB-01 /064 W

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O R 051745Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8195

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T NICOSIA 225

LIMDIS

DOD FOR ISA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: GOCYPRUS BAN ON MILATTACHES' ATTENDANCE AT TMT DEMON-
STRATION

REF: NICOSIA 2195, OCT 25, 1973; NICOSIA 1629, JULY 26, 1973

1. MILATTS RECEIVED ORAL INVITATION FROM MINISTER OREK TO ATTEND AN
EXERCISE CONDUCTED BY TMT 3:45 PM LOCAL, WEDNESDAY.

2. GOCYPRUS GOT WIND OF INVITATION AND, AFTER EXTENSIVE INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS THIS AFTERNOON, FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED ME IN TO READ
FOLLOWING NOTE AT DICTATION SPEED: "THE GOVERNMENT IS INFORMED THAT
MILITARY ATTACHES IN CYPRUS HAVE BEEN INVITED BY MR. OREK TO ATTEND
"MILITARY EXERCISES" OF THE "COMMANDO UNIT" OF THE SO-CALLED TURKISH
CYPRIOT FIGHTERS, TO BE HELD TOMORROW.

"THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE ILLEGAL STATUS
OF THE SO-CALLED TURKISH CYPRIOT FIGHTERS IS WELL KNOWN. THE

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PRESENCE OF ANY MILITARY ATTACHE ON THIS OCCASION IMPLIES PER SE

RECOGNITION OF THIS ILLEGAL ARMY, ALL THE MORE AS THE ATTENDANCE IS THE RESULT OF AN INVITATION TO AN ORGANIZED EVENT.

"THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT NO MILITARY ATTACHE WILL ATTEND THE SAID EVENT. NEVERTHELESS, IT WISHES TO WARN THAT ANY SUCH ATTENDANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT AND WILL PROVOKE THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG RESENTMENT."

3. FON MIN SAID THAT THIS NOTE WAS BEING PASSED TO ALL EMBASSIES WITH MILATTS. HIS INFORMATION (AND OURS) IS THAT SOVIETS, BULGARIANS, ROMANIANS, SYRIANS EXPECT TO COMPLY. BRITISH HICOM HAD INITIALLY INTENDED TO OPPOSE, BUT HICOMER OLVER SAYS WILL COMPLY WITH THIS DIRECT ORDER. NO OTHER ATTACHES.

4. IN ACCEPTING NOTE, I MADE FOLLOWING POINTS TO FON MIN:

(A) I WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS.

(B) I WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT I HAD RECEIVED THIS NOTE DESPITE FACT THAT DURING AFTERNOON CONVERSATIONS I HAD POINTED OUT THAT MILATT CARRYING OUT NORMAL DUTIES HAD REASON TO SEE TURKISH FIGHTERS' EXERCISE, THAT SUCH VIEWING IN NO SENSE CONSTITUTED USG STEP TOWARD RECOGNITION, ANY MORE THAN DID INFORMAL USG CONTACTS WITH OTHER TURKISH CYPRIOTS. I HAD SAID I WOULD BE GLAD TO CONFIRM ORALLY OR IN WRITING THAT NO STEP TOWARD RECOGNITION WAS INVOLVED.

(C) I HAD REMINDED FON MIN OF OUR LONG-STANDING POLICY OF NOT AGREEING TO GOCYPRUS RIGHT TO CONTROL OR LIMIT OUR CONTACTS WITH TURK CYPRIOTS. ISSUE HAD ARISEN IN 1971, WHEN AMBASSADOR POPPER HAD OBTAINED ARCHBISHOP'S CONCURRENCE IN PRINCIPLE. AGAIN IN 1973 (REFTEL), WE HAD TAKEN SAME POSITION, HAD AGREED NOT RPT NOT TO SEND REPS TO FORMAL TURKISH NATIONAL DAY ONLY ON EXPRESS GOCYPRUS CONCURRENCE IN UNDERSTANDING THAT GOCYPRUS WOULD NOT OTHERWISE ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT OUR CONTACT WITH TURK CYPRIOTS. (I HAD READ OUR UNDERSTANDING TO FON MIN DURING DISCUSSIONS. HE HAD NOT CHALLENGED VERSION IN REFTEL OF OUR UNDERSTANDING, BUT SAID "GOCYPRUS DID NOT BELIEVE IT APPLIED IN THIS CASE.")

(D) SINCE GOCYPRUS WOULD NOT ACCEPT OUR ASSURANCES AS TO WHAT DID NOT CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION--WE WERE NOT, INCIDENTALLY, ACCEPTING AN INVITATION FROM THE QUESTIONED UNIT, BUT RATHER FROM THE MINISTER, WHOM THE GOCYPRUS KNOWS WE RECOGNIZE--UNILATERAL POWER WAS IN GOCYPRUS HANDS TO LIMIT OUR CONTACTS AT WILL WITH TURK CYPRIOTS. GOCYPRUS CONSIDERED REST OF TURK ADMINISTRATION ALSO ILLEGAL. FON MIN SAID THAT INTENT WAS NOT TO LIMIT CONTACT BUT TO AVOID RECOG-

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NITION; I POINTED OUT THAT RESULT WAS THE SAME.

5. MILATT WANTS TO ATTEND.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE SORRY THAT GOCYPRUS HAS CHOSEN TO FORCE THIS ISSUE, BUT IT BEARS HALLMARKS OF A SALAMI EFFORT TO CUT OFF TURK CYPRIOTS FROM FOREIGN MISSIONS AND THE LEGITIMATION WHICH THIS CONTACT SEEMS TO PROVIDE. IN FACT, WE DOUBT THAT GOCYPRUS LIKELY TO

GO MUCH FARTHER NOW, BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND STEP, AND THIS ONE TAKEN DESPITE EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH EFFORTS TO LIMIT CONTACTS.

7. THIS IS NOT A PARTICULARLY GOOD WICKET TO RESIST GOCYPRUS DEMAND, SINCE ALL OTHER COUNTRIES ACQUIESCING, AND EVEN BRITISH PLAN ONLY TO SEEK WHITEHALL AUTHORITY FOR INFORMAL AND QUIET APPROACH LATER, SUGGESTING TROUBLE AHEAD IF GOCYPRUS PERSISTS.

8. TURKS ARE AWARE OF UNDERSTANDING WE HAD REACHED WITH GOCYPRUS, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COMPLAIN STRONGLY HERE AND IN ANKARA IF WE ACCEDE.

9. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT MILATT SHOULD ATTEND, AND THAT GOCYPRUS SHOULD KNOW IT IS ON WASHINGTON ORDERS. WHILE WE WOULD EXPECT A PERIOD OF VERY COOL RELATIONS HERE, WE DO NOT SEE HOW GOCYPRUS WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO PRESS PROGRAM IF WE ACCEDE THIS TIME. END COMMENT

10. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE DEPT AUTHORIZE ME TO INSTRUCT MILATT TO ATTEND PROPOSED CEREMONY, AND TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER TO EXPRESS REGRET THAT IT HAD PRESENTED US WITH AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CHOICE IN WHICH WE COULD NOT POSSIBLY SATISFY ITS DESIRE WITHOUT OURSELVES BACKING AWAY FROM UNDERSTANDING WITH GOCYPRUS WHICH WE BELIEVED BOTH SIDES COMMITTED TO HONOR, AND WHICH WE HAD EXPLAINED TO TURKS.

11. IF DEPARTMENT UNWILLING TO HAVE ISSUE FACED AT THIS TIME (E.E. FOR PROJECT TENNIS OR OTHER REASONS), RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ALONG LINES PARA 4, AND TO STATE THAT USG UNPREPARED TO ACCEDE TO FURTHER STEPS, EFFECT OF WHICH IS PROGRESSIVELY TO REDUCE USG CONTACT WITH AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ISLAND POPULATION.

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